



Tompkins County Election Worker News

Tompkins County
Board of Elections

Summer 2007
Volume 3, Issue 1

"To make democracy work, we must be a nation of participants, not simply observers."— Louis L'Amour

September Primary Date Change

Governor Eliot Spitzer recently signed into law legislation that will change this fall's primary date from September 11 to **September 18**. This is being done to honor the memory of victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack.

We may not have a lot of contested races in this Primary, so we may not need many inspectors. We'll contact you in August if we need you to work.

Presidential Primary Moved To February 5

Governor Spitzer also recently signed legislation that will change next year's Presidential Primary date from the first Tuesday in March to the first Tuesday in February, which in 2008 will fall on February 5.

Although February 5th conjures up images of cold and snow, we might get lucky. On Feb 5, 1999 the temperature in Ithaca reached 49 degrees! (But we won't mention that in 1996 the high was only 11.) Actually our average temperature over the last 10 years for Feb. 5th is 37.7 degrees. At least that's above freezing!

Machine Update

As of this writing, certification for the new voting machines mandated by HAVA is on hold due to problems with the Federal certification of one of the testing labs (CIBER). Thus we will not be able to purchase and use any new machines for the 2007 elections. So our machine techs will be giving our old lever machines thorough inspections to insure their performance for yet another election cycle. (Or two?)

Some good news is that Congress passed legislation in late May that will allow New York to keep nearly \$50 million in HAVA money we thought we had lost because we hadn't purchased new voting machines yet. We now have until September 2008.

Test Your HAVA Knowledge

When is it appropriate to touch a person's wheelchair?

- a) When a person in the wheelchair asks for assistance.
- b) When they are blocking the path of travel
- c) When there is an emergency that requires immediate evacuation
- d) All of the above

See back page for answer.

Important Dates

Sept. 18:
Primary Election—
Polls open noon to 9
p.m. (Inspectors arrive by
11:30 a.m.)

November 6:
General Election
Polls open 6 a.m. to 9
p.m. (Inspectors arrive by
5:30 a.m.)

Feb 5, 2008:
Presidential Primary
Polls open noon to 9
p.m. (Inspectors arrive by
11:30 a.m.)

Tips for Election Day

Since it's such a long day when you work at the polls, you might want to bring a toothbrush or mouthwash so you can "freshen" your breath once or twice. Also, avoid wearing strong perfumes or colognes. Your fellow inspectors and the voters will appreciate it!



Electioneering

Inspectors must always be sure no “electioneering” takes place within the 100 ft. markers. Sometimes electioneering is obvious, like handing out political brochures or wearing buttons supporting candidates or issues. But there are more subtle forms you need to watch for, especially among yourself and fellow inspectors. For example, the newspaper might have articles about the candidates or ballot issues - if so - don’t bring it! Anything with a candidate’s name on it (books, pamphlets, posters) - even if it has nothing to do with the election, is not allowed.

Also, despite our cherished freedom of speech, the poll site is not the place to discuss the candidates and issues of the day. If there’s ever any question at all about what’s allowed and what isn’t, call us immediately. Do not wait until the day after to call us!

HAVA Test Answer

When is it appropriate to touch a person’s wheelchair?

a) When the person asks for assistance.

The most appropriate way to provide assistance is allowing the person using the wheelchair to decide. If you need them to move, or want to provide assistance let the person tell you how best to go about it.

A person using a wheel chair is like any other person when it comes to emergency situations - if they need assistance, they will most likely ask. Offer assistance, but don’t assume they need it.

(Source - Catskill Center for Independence)

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Check our Web site:

www.votetompkins.com,
for the latest election related information.

For questions or comments about this newsletter, contact Tom Paolangeli, 274-5522, or email: tpaolangeli@tompkins-co.org.

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